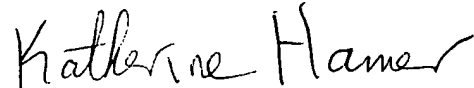


**REMARKS**

No new matter has been added. Applicants request entry of the amendments as set forth herein prior to examination of the application on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Hamer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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KAH/dn:dlm

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Enclosures: Version of Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made



Serial No. 10/000,479

**VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

5. (Amended) The structure of claim 1, wherein [a] the titanium lower portion of the nitrogen-rich Ti layer contains substantially no nitrogen.

12. (Amended) A local interconnect structure, comprising:  
a semiconductor substrate;  
a titanium silicide layer disposed over a portion of the semiconductor substrate;  
a nitrogen-rich Ti layer disposed over the titanium silicide layer; and  
a refractory-metal silicide layer disposed on the nitrogen-rich Ti layer.

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